AVATAR

The Last Airbender

Show #315

BOOK THREE: Fire
CHAPTER FIFTEEN: "The Boiling Rock, Part 2"

Written By

Joshua Hamilton

As Broadcast Draft
November 29th, 2007

ACT ONE

EXT. PRISON YARD - MORNING

An alarm BLEATS as prisoners are taken away for lockdown, and the new arrival of prisoners is ushered into a lineup near the gondola landing. Sokka has his visor up and we can see his face.

ROKU
(PREVIOUSLY ON AVATAR)

GONDOLA GUARD
Line 'em up for the warden!

Sokka zeros in on his father.

SOKKA
(sotto to himself)
Dad.

Sokka makes his way toward them.

EXT. GONDOLA LANDING - MORNING

Sokka squeezes through some guards, trying to get in position closer to his father.

SOKKA
Excuse me. Coming through. The warden wants me over there, sorry.

Sokka watches, eyes glued on his father, as a couple of guards line up Hakoda and the other shackled prisoners so that they are standing shoulder to shoulder. A beat later the warden arrives and addresses the new inmates.

WARDEN
Welcome to the Boiling Rock.

The warden slowly walks past the inmates as he talks, looking each of them in the eye.

WARDEN (cont'd)
I'm sure you've all heard the horrible rumors about our little island. Well, I just want to tell you that they don't have to be true -- as long as you do everything I say...

Just then the warden stops in front of Hakoda who is looking down, refusing to make eye-contact.

WARDEN (cont'd)
Look me in the eye when I'm talking to you.

HAKODA
No.

WARDEN
Oh... you'd rather look at my shoes? Then take a look!

The warden grabs Hakoda's shackles and forces him to the ground. The warden steps on the shackles that bind Hakoda's hands, so that it looks like Hakoda is bowing to the warden.

WARDEN (cont'd)
I know exactly who you are, Hakoda of the Water Tribe -- so strong-willed. But don't worry, we'll get rid of that in time.

Sokka watches as more guards approach, surrounding his father. Sokka wants to do something, but can't.

WARDEN (cont'd)
Now look me in the eye.

There is a beat, Hakoda sees the guards surrounding him -- what's Hakoda going to do? Finally, he lifts his head and looks the warden in the eye. The warden smiles.

WARDEN (cont'd)
See, isn't that better?
(to all prisoners)
You will all do as I say, or pay the price. You will all--

The warden is about to continue with his speech, he starts to take a step but suddenly TRIPS on Hakoda's shackles.

WARDEN (cont'd)
(COMICAL FALLING NOISES)

The warden stumbles into a group of guards who all fall down like dominos. Hakoda smiles to himself. Sokka stifles a LAUGH. The warden looks back at Hakoda: did he do that on purpose? Hakoda quickly stops smiling.

GONDOLA GUARD
(to warden)
Are you okay, sir?

Gondola Guard tries to help the warden up.

WARDEN
I'm fine. Get these prisoners out of my sight!

INT. HAKODA'S CELL - LATER

Hakoda sits in his dank and dreary cell when he suddenly hears a LOUD CLANG -- his cell door opens. A guard walks in with his visor down. Unbeknownst to his father, the guard is Sokka.

SOKKA
Thank goodness you're okay!

Sokka steps toward his father who takes a step back, confused but ready to defend himself.

HAKODA
If you take one step closer, you'll see just how okay I am.

SOKKA
Dad, it's me.

Sokka quickly removes his guard helmet. Hakoda can't believe his eyes.

HAKODA
(emotional)
Sokka, my son.

They hug.

HAKODA (cont'd)
You know Sokka, you should be more careful with that guard outfit on; I almost punched you in the gut.

SOKKA
Yeah, I ran into that problem earlier.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

Chit Sang sits in the middle of the room, completely tied to a chair, when the warden enters followed by his two personal BODY GUARDS -- these are two very large, intimidating men.

WARDEN
Are you comfortable, Chit Sang?

CHIT SANG
If you're trying to get me to talk, forget it! I'm not a squealer!

WARDEN
Chit Sang, I only asked you if you were comfortable.

CHIT SANG
Well yeah, actually I am pretty comfortable.

The warden tips Chit Sang's chair forward. Chit Sang, unable to stop himself from tipping over (because his legs and arms are tied to the chair), lands on his face with an UGH!

WARDEN
Are you still comfortable?

CHIT SANG
No.

The warden kicks Chit Sang's chair over so that Chit Sang is now facing the ceiling. The warden leans over Chit Sang to emphasize what he is about to say.

WARDEN
I know you and your cronies are not smart enough to come up with that little escape plan. So you're gonna tell me: who is?

INT. HAKODA'S CELL - LATER

Sokka is looking out the tiny window into the hall making sure no one is coming. He turns to his dad.

SOKKA
So where's Bato? Where's everyone else from the invasion?

HAKODA
The others are being held at a prison near the Fire Nation palace. They singled me out as their leader and sent me here. But before I left, I met some young women who said they knew you...
(trying to recall)
The Oshinama Fighters?

SOKKA
You mean the Kyoshi Warriors?

Hakoda touches his nose, confirming.

HAKODA
That's right.

SOKKA
Their leader Suki is here, and she's going to escape with us.

HAKODA
Good, we'll need all the help we can get.

SOKKA
And you know Prince Zuko?

HAKODA
The son of the Firelord? I don't know him but I know of him.

SOKKA
Well, he's here too.

HAKODA
Sounds like a major problem.

SOKKA
Actually, he's on our side now.
(off Hakoda's skeptical reaction)
I know, I had the same reaction. After all he's done, it was hard to trust him. But he's really proven himself and I never would have found you without his help.

Hakoda accepts his son's answer.

HAKODA
So... do you have a plan?

SOKKA
We had one, but some of the other prisoners got involved and ruined it. I don't know if there's another way off this island.

Hakoda looks to his son. Sokka is disappointed with himself: another plan that failed.

HAKODA
Sokka, there's no prison in the world that can hold two Water Tribe geniuses.

SOKKA
Then we'd better find two!

Hakoda starts laughing.

HAKODA
(LAUGHING)

Sokka sees his dad laughing, and starts laughing.

SOKKA
(LAUGHING)

INT. PRISON HALLWAY - LATER

Sokka, with helmet on, visor up, steps out of Hakoda's cell. We follow him as he walks down a long prison hallway. Sokka finally stops in front of a cell and looks around, making sure no other guard is near. Sokka slides open the small window to the cell and whispers into it:

SOKKA
Zuko, are you there?

Zuko appears in the small window.

ZUKO
I'm here.

SOKKA
I just got done talking to my dad -- we came up with an escape plan together.

Just then, two guards show up! Sokka shuts his mouth and quickly switches back to his guard persona.

MALE GUARD #2
What are you doing here?

Sokka thinks quickly.

SOKKA
I was just telling this dirty low-life what I think of him!

MALE GUARD #2
Well, you'll have to do that later. He's coming with us.

SOKKA
Why?

FEMALE GUARD #1
Because we have orders straight from the warden -- that's why.

SOKKA
Could I just get ten more seconds to rough him up a bit?

The guards look to each other.

FEMALE GUARD #1
Fine, ten seconds.

Sokka enters Zuko's cell and shuts the door behind him. The guards look to each other again.

A beat later, the guards hear PUNCHING SOUNDS and Zuko GRUNTING as if getting punched.

SOKKA (O.S.)
Take that! And this!

MALE GUARD #2
Newbie.

INT. ZUKO'S CELL - THAT MOMENT

We see Sokka punching the bed and Zuko making fake "getting hit" NOISES. As he does this, Sokka leans in and whispers to Zuko:

SOKKA
We have a new plan but it's going to need a big distraction. Be in the yard in one hour.

Just then, the guards enter.

MALE GUARD #2
Alright, that's enough.

The guards grab Zuko and throw shackles on him. Sokka watches as they take him away.

INT. HOLDING CELL - DAY

As Zuko is being dragged down the hall we hear him complaining.

ZUKO (O.S.)
What are you doing? Where are you taking me?

The guards and Zuko finally come into view. They TOSS Zuko into the cell and he stumbles up against the wall.

ZUKO (cont'd)
I didn't do anything wrong!

Before Zuko turns around, he hears a voice.

MAI (O.S.)
Come on, Zuko, we all know that's a lie.

Zuko turns to see the voice belongs to MAI! Zuko can't believe his eyes -- Mai is standing before him!

ZUKO
Mai...

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

The warden approaches one of his bodyguards. As the warden talks he motions to the interrogation room.

WARDEN
How is he?

BODYGUARD
I think he's ready to talk.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

The warden enters and sees Chit Sang still tied to his chair, only now he is drenched in sweat, his shirt is ripped and he has clearly been roughed-up.

WARDEN
Have you had enough time to <u>think about</u> what I asked?

Chit Sang looks to the Body guards and then to the warden -- he is a broken man.

CHIT SANG
Yes.

WARDEN
And?

CHIT SANG
You're right -- there was another person involved in the escape plan.

WARDEN
Who?

CHIT SANG
It's a guy who's disguised like a prison guard, only he's not a prison guard. He's the mastermind; he came up with the plan.

Off the warden's smile we...

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

INT. HOLDING CELL - DAY

Zuko still can't believe Mai is there.

ZUKO
How did you know I was here?

MAI
Because I know you so well.

ZUKO
(confused)
But, how...

MAI
(simply)
The warden's my uncle, you idiot.

MAI (cont'd) *
(beat)
The truth is, I guess I don't know you.

Mai produces the good-bye letter Zuko wrote her in a previous episode. She holds it up.

MAI (cont'd)
All I get is a letter? You could've at least looked me in the eye when you ripped out my heart.

Zuko is caught off guard, but tries his best to explain.

ZUKO
I didn't mean to...

MAI
You didn't mean to?!

Mai unfolds the letter and begins reading from it.

MAI (cont'd)
Dear Mai, I'm sorry that you have to find out this way, but I'm leaving--

ZUKO
Stop! This isn't about you. This is about the Fire Nation.

MAI
Thanks Zuko, that makes me feel all better.

ZUKO
Mai...

Zuko searches for the words.

ZUKO (cont'd)
...I never wanted to hurt you. But I have to do this to save my country.

MAI
Save it? You're betraying your country.

ZUKO
That's not how I see it.

INT. SUKI'S CELL - DAY

Suki is alone in her cell practicing Kung-Fu with her make-shift fans (made from prison materials) when the door suddenly opens. Suki quickly hides the fans but then relaxes when she sees that it's Sokka -- his visor is up.

SUKI
Sokka, what's going on?

SOKKA
I don't have much time. If I'm seen with you, the guards might think something's up.

Sokka quickly peers out the tiny window, to make sure there are no guards. He turns back to Suki.

SOKKA (cont'd)
I just talked to my dad.

SUKI
That's great!

SOKKA
Yeah. And we're escaping today -- on the gondola.

SUKI
What?

SOKKA
My Dad and I came up with the plan together -- we're going to commandeer the gondola and we're going to take a hostage with us so they won't cut the lines.

Suki looks out her window at the heavily guarded gondola.

SUKI
We'll never make it onto the gondola, there's too many guards.

SOKKA
My Dad already thought of that. He said we'll need a distraction. That's why we're going to start a prison riot.

Suki tries to take this all in.

SUKI
Okay, let's say by some miracle this all works and we make it on the gondola. The warden will still just cut the lines -- even if we have a captive.

SOKKA
Not if the warden <u>is</u> the captive.

Just then, they hear guards WALKING down the hall -- they are looking for someone. Sokka peeks out of the door and watches as the guards pass.

SOKKA (cont'd)
I have to go.

I'll find you before we start the riot.

INT. PRISON HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Sokka sneaks out of Suki's cell, his visor still up. He begins walking the opposite direction from the guards, but suddenly stops when he hears a guard's voice:

MALE GUARD #2
Hey you!

Sokka turns around and sees the guards heading towards him.

MALE GUARD #2 (cont'd)
The warden wants to see you.

SOKKA
Why?

MALE GUARD #2
I don't know, I didn't ask.

SOKKA
Maybe I could schedule another time with him, how's tomorrow?

MALE GUARD #2
He wants to see you -- now.

The guards grab Sokka's arms and lead him away.

EXT. PRISON YARD - DAY

Sokka and the guards step out of the prison and into the courtyard. Already there are several guards and prison officials standing against a wall -- they are in a LINE-UP. Included in the line-up is the bully guard from earlier.

WARDEN
(to guards)
Put him in the line-up!

As Sokka is escorted to the line-up, he sees Chit Sang in shackles, sitting next to the warden. Sokka is placed next to the Bully guard at the end of the line-up. (NOTE: at this point all the guards in the line have their helmets off.) Other guards stand as sentries around the scene.

The warden stands and looks to everyone in the line-up.

WARDEN (cont'd)
One of you is an imposter who thought he... could fool me. But now, that person is going to be in a lot of trouble.

Sokka is very nervous -- he's sure he's going to be busted. Sokka looks around, but there's no escape. The warden turns to Chit Sang.

WARDEN (cont'd)
Who is it?

Chit Sang stands up and dramatically eyeballs each of them. He walks close to Sokka and raises his finger.

Sokka thinks this is it -- he's busted. But to his surprise, Chit Sang points to the bully guard!

CHIT SANG
That's him, warden. He's the imposter.

Sokka is shocked, but even more shocked is the bully guard!

BULLY GUARD
What?! I am not!

Immediately, the bully guard is surrounded and hauled off. As he's dragged away, he yells:

BULLY GUARD (cont'd)
He's lying! He's a liar!

Chit Sang smiles to himself... revenge. Sokka looks relieved.

INT. INTERROGATION ROOM - LATER

The warden is in the middle of interrogating the bully guard who is nervous and sweating.

BULLY GUARD
(pleading)
I'm telling you, it wasn't me.

WARDEN
Save your breath, I know you've been working together. You threw Chit Sang in the very cooler they used to escape. It was all part of your plan.

BULLY GUARD
That was just a coincidence!

Suddenly, the door opens and a bodyguard interrupts.

BODYGUARD
Sir, there's someone to see you.

WARDEN
Who told you to interrupt me?!

Just then, Azula enters followed by Ty Lee!

AZULA
I did.

The warden is surprised to see Princess Azula. He composes himself.

WARDEN
Princess Azula, it is an honor to welcome you to the Fire Nation's most exemplary prison. I didn't realize you were coming--

Azula cuts off the warden. She motions to the bully guard.

AZULA
Who is this?

WARDEN
He's a guard who was involved in a recent and feeble escape attempt.

BULLY GUARD
It wasn't me!

WARDEN
(to bully guard)
Quiet, you!

AZULA
You're wasting your time. That's not one of them.

WARDEN
How do you know?

AZULA
Because I'm a people person.

INT. PRISON - DAY

Sokka, visor up, approaches a LOWLY GUARD.

SOKKA
Hey, I just got orders -- let the prisoners out into the yard.

LOWLY GUARD
But we're in the middle of lockdown.

SOKKA
Oh okay, I'll just go tell the warden you said that. I'm sure he'll be glad to hear about you undermining his authority. What's your name again?

LOWLY GUARD
Wait, don't tell the warden! I'm just a little confused.

SOKKA
Hey, I'm confused too. But the warden's in a bad mood and irrational, so if you ask me, it's best not to question it and just do what he says.

LOWLY GUARD
Yeah, you're right.

The lowly guard gives a signal to the other guards.

LOWLY GUARD (cont'd)
We're letting them out!

He pulls a lever and all the cell doors open.

EXT. PRISON YARD - MOMENTS LATER

As the prisoners shuffle into the yard, Sokka finds his dad and Suki.

SOKKA
This is it -- we have to start a riot.

SUKI
Okay, but how do we do that?

Hakoda looks around the yard.

HAKODA
I'll show you.

He runs up to a TOUGH CRIMINAL and shoves him.

TOUGH CRIMINAL *
Hey, what'd you do that for? That hurt my feelings.

HAKODA
(confused)
Aren't you mad at me?

TOUGH CRIMINAL
Normally I would be but I've been learning to control my anger.

Hakoda is frustrated.

SOKKA
This isn't working.

Just then, Chit Sang approaches Sokka.

CHIT SANG
Hey you! You're lucky I didn't rat you out. But my generosity comes with a price.

Sokka looks to Chit Sang: what does he want?

CHIT SANG (cont'd)
I know you're planning another escape attempt -- and I want in.

Sokka smiles as he suddenly thinks of something.

SOKKA
Actually we're trying to escape right now, but we need a riot. You wouldn't happen to know how to start one, would you?

CHIT SANG
A prison riot? Please.

Chit Sang turns around and hollers to all the prisoners.

CHIT SANG (cont'd) *
Hey!

There is a beat as all the prisoners look to him.

CHIT SANG (cont'd)
Riot!

In an instant, all the prisoners begin to RIOT! Tables are turned over as prisoners wrestle around. Clouds of dirt plume into the air.

HAKODA
Impressive.

Even the Tough Criminal joins in.

TOUGH CRIMINAL
Forget about controlling my anger -- let's riot!

Riot alarms suddenly SOUND. A moment later, the warden steps onto a platform over looking the prison yard.

WARDEN
Who let these prisoners into the yard?! This is supposed to be a lockdown!

In the background, we can see the lowly guard sneak away.

INT. HOLDING CELL - THAT MOMENT

Mai and Zuko hear the ALARMS going off. Male Guard #1 pokes his head into the cell.

MALE GUARD #1
(to Mai)
Ma'am, there's a riot going on! I'm here to protect you.

MAI
(offended)
I don't need any protection.

ZUKO
(almost laughing)
Believe me, she doesn't.

MALE GUARD #1
I'm sorry, but I'm under direct orders from your uncle to make sure nothing happens--

Zuko sees this as an opportunity, and makes a dash for the door. Sure enough, before Mai can react, the guard has thrown himself in front of her like a secret service agent, blocking her. Zuko gets away.

MAI
(furious)
Get off of me!

EXT. PRISON YARD - DAY

Zuko meets up with our group (and Chit Sang) in a hidden area of the yard.

SOKKA
Zuko, good -- we're all here. Now all we need to do is grab the warden and get to the gondolas.

ZUKO
And how do we do that?

SOKKA
I'm not sure.

ZUKO
I thought you thought this through.

SOKKA
I thought you told me it's okay not to think everything through!

ZUKO
Maybe not everything, but this is kind of important!

Sokka and Zuko are suddenly interrupted by Chit Sang.

CHIT SANG
Hey uh, fellas, I think your girlfriend's taking care of it.

Chit Sang motions to Suki who is already heading through the riot. Suki (using her fans) pops out of the middle of the riot and literally begins running on top of the rioters. She steps on heads and fists, finally making it to the warden's platform. The guys watch Suki in awe.

EXT. PLATFORM - THAT MOMENT

Suki swiftly scales the wall and faces the warden and his body guards.

WARDEN
(to Suki, still arrogant)
You wouldn't dare--

But before the warden can finish his sentence, Suki uses her fans to take out the body guards. Then, reminiscent of show 1.04, Suki hog-ties the warden and puts a gag in his mouth.

SUKI
Sorry warden. You're my prisoner now.

She throws the warden over her shoulder and heads back to...

EXT. PRISON YARD - MOMENTS LATER

Suki returns to the guys with the warden.

SUKI
We've got the warden, now let's get out of here!

HAKODA
(to Sokka)
That's some girl.

SOKKA
Tell me about it.

The guys are still in disbelief at what Suki just did.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

EXT. GONDOLA LANDING - DAY

Hakoda carries the warden, and Zuko leads the way towards the gondola.

SUKI
We're almost there.

Suddenly, the guards protecting the gondola attack our group. Zuko quickly jumps into action but realizes that there's too many of them.

ZUKO
Back off! We've got the warden.

The guards suddenly stop fighting when they realize that the warden is a hostage.

ZUKO (cont'd)
Let's go.

They all climb onto the gondola landing. Suki opens the door to the departing gondola car.

SUKI
Everyone in!

Our group, with the warden, jumps into the gondola car. Zuko runs over to the controls and pulls a lever -- the gondola starts to move. (GONDOLA NOTE: There are two separate gondola tracks that run parallel to each other and in opposite directions -- so when one gondola car is at the prison station, the other car is at the outer crater station, and they pass each other at the midpoint. The gondola cars are large and enclosed with open air windows. Each gondola is attached to two parallel cables. We will be happy to clarify the mechanics further at the start-up meeting.) As the gondola begins moving, Zuko does not immediately jump into the car. He continues to pull at the lever.

SOKKA
What are you doing?!

ZUKO
I'm making it so they can't stop us!

Zuko finally BREAKS OFF the lever. Then, at the last minute, he jumps into the gondola car.

INT. GONDOLA CAR - CONTINUOUS

SOKKA
Way to think ahead.

Zuko tosses the lever over the side of the gondola car. Everyone watches as the lever disappears into the boiling water below. The gondola begins its STEADY CLIMB toward the outer station, putting some distance between it and the prison station.

SUKI
We're on our way.

A moment later, Hakoda points back at the gondola landing.

HAKODA
Wait, who's that?

We see that Hakoda is pointing to Azula and Ty Lee! Everyone looks at them.

ZUKO
That's a problem. It's my sister and her friend.

Our group watches as Azula finds a metal hook and throws it over the gondola cable. Using the gondola cable as a zip line, and with the help of some Firebending, she ROCKETS towards the kids' gondola car. Ty Lee follows Azula, running and flipping on the gondola line like it's a high-wire in the circus.

Suki watches with a determined look on her face.

SUKI
This is a rematch I've been waiting for.

ZUKO
Me too.

Suki opens her fans. Hakoda restrains the warden while Suki, Zuko, and Sokka climb out of the window and onto...

EXT. ROOF OF GONDOLA CAR - CONTINUOUS

Zuko, Sokka, and Suki stand on top of the gondola, waiting for Azula and Ty Lee. Finally the girls arrive and instantly attack. The five of them begin an awesome, on-top-of-moving-gondola-car, high-above-boiling-water fight.

INT. GONDOLA CAR - CONTINUOUS

Chit Sang, the warden and Hakoda can hear the commotion on top of the car as they are tossed around inside.

EXT. GONDOLA LANDING - THAT MOMENT

The prison guards have now re-taken the gondola landing. Male Guard #1 sees the broken lever.

Male Guard #2 looks through his BINOCULARS to the gondola car. *

MALE GUARD #2
There's the warden -- I see him!

THROUGH THE BINOCULARS:

The warden (who is gagged) sees the Prison guards looking at him with binoculars. In the commotion, he struggles to get one of his hands out of the ropes... he frees it, and makes the SCISSORS SIGN.

EXT. GONDOLA LANDING - CONTINUOUS

MALE GUARD #2
He wants us to cut the line.

MALE GUARD #1
But, if we cut the line... there's no way he'll survive.

MALE GUARD #2
(somber)
He knows that.

The two guards grab a large CUTTING TOOL, and begin using it to cut through one of the impressively THICK CABLES. After a moment, the line (still moving) begins to FRAY, slowly unraveling.

EXT. ROOF OF GONDOLA CAR - DAY

The group continues to fight on top of the gondola car, unaware of the impending cable situation.

EXT. GONDOLA LANDING - THAT MOMENT

The guards are almost done sawing through the frayed cable. It finally SNAPS. The cable tension violently WHIPS the severed cable up toward the gondola where it shoots through and is released on the other side...

EXT. ROOF OF GONDOLA CAR - CONTINUOUS

As the one cable goes, the gondola car tips, hanging to one side -- everyone scrambles not to fall off. Sokka SLIPS, but is CAUGHT by Zuko. Ty Lee, who easily balances herself, helps Azula up.

TY LEE
They're about to cut the line!

AZULA
Then it's time to leave.

Azula looks to her brother who is hanging on to Sokka.

AZULA (cont'd)
Good bye, Zuko.

Azula leaps off the top of the gondola (using some Firebending rocket power) to the other gondola line and into a gondola car. Ty Lee follows with a flip, and the two safely head in the opposite direction, back towards the prison station. (Or we could alter this action if we determine the mechanics cause the other car to tip as well.)

Zuko manages to swing Sokka into the crippled gondola car. He then helps Suki in.

INT. GONDOLA CAR - CONTINUOUS

Zuko climbs in.

ZUKO
They're cutting the line. The gondola's about to go.

HAKODA
I hope this thing floats.

Sokka looks back at the guards who are still cutting the line.

EXT. GONDOLA LANDING - THAT MOMENT

The guards continue to cut through the line and are just about through when suddenly, they are both pinned to a wall with stilettos. We REVEAL that the stilettos came from Mai!

MALE GUARD #1
What are you doing?!

MAI
Saving the jerk who dumped me.

Other guards notice what's going on and they begin to attack Mai. Mai fights back and manages to hold off the gondola guards, defending the gondola line and saving her true love.

INT. GONDOLA CAR - THAT MOMENT

Sokka SQUINTS to see what's going on at the gondola landing.

SOKKA
Who is that?

The group looks to where Sokka is pointing. It's Zuko who realizes...

ZUKO
It's Mai!

INT. AZULA'S GONDOLA CAR - SIMULTANEOUS

Azula watches in disbelief as Mai fights off the guards.

AZULA
What is she doing?

Ty Lee shrugs innocently.

INT. GONDOLA CAR - DAY

Our group holds their breath as the gondola car barely makes it to the other side. They jump out of the gondola.

HAKODA
Sorry warden, your record is officially broken.

The warden FUMES as our group runs away.

EXT. OTHER SIDE OF BOILING ROCK - MOMENTS LATER

The group is excited and a little bit in disbelief as they run away.

SUKI
Well, we made it out -- now what?

Zuko suddenly stops.

SOKKA
Zuko what are you doing?

ZUKO
My sister was on that island.

SOKKA
Yeah, and she's probably right behind us, so let's not stop.

ZUKO
What I mean is she must have come here somehow.

Zuko looks up and spots something. He points to the distance.

ZUKO (cont'd)
There.

The kids look to where Zuko is pointing. Rising above the trees, they see the top of a LARGE ZEPPELIN.

ZUKO (cont'd)
That's our way out of here.

EXT. GONDOLA LANDING - MOMENTS LATER

The guards have Mai in custody when Azula arrives followed by Ty Lee.

AZULA
(to guards)
Leave us alone.

The guards leave. Azula stares at Mai -- she is baffled and angry, but very calm.

AZULA (cont'd)
I never expected this from you.

Mai doesn't answer. She just holds Azula's stare.

AZULA (cont'd)
(sincerely wondering)
The thing I don't understand is, why? Why would you do it? You know the consequences.

There is a beat.

MAI
I guess you just don't know people as well as you think you do. You miscalculated -- I love Zuko more than I fear you.

Azula finally snaps and completely loses it.

AZULA
No, you miscalculated! You should have feared me more.

Azula lifts her two fingers and begins her lightning technique -- Mai closes her eyes. But before Azula delivers the final blow, she suddenly falls to the ground, limp. We REVEAL Ty Lee just chi-blocked her! Ty Lee grabs Mai.

TY LEE
Come on, let's get out of here.

But it's too late. Many guards start to arrive.

AZULA
You're both fools!

The guards successfully apprehend Ty Lee and Mai -- there's no escape.

APPREHENDING GUARD
What should we do with them, Princess?

AZULA
Put them somewhere I'll never have to see their faces again -- and let them rot!

EXT. WESTERN AIR TEMPLE - EVENING

The zeppelin lands and Katara, Toph and Aang approach it.

KATARA
What are you doing in this thing? What happened to the war balloon?

ZUKO
It kind of got destroyed.

AANG
Sounds like a crazy fishing trip.

TOPH
Did you at least get some good meat?

SOKKA
I did. The best meat of all, the meat of friendship and fatherhood.

Just then Suki and Hakoda appear from the zeppelin... followed by Chit Sang.

CHIT SANG
I'm new. What's up, everybody?

Katara is silent and in disbelief.

KATARA
Dad.

HAKODA
Hi, Katara.

Katara hugs her dad.

KATARA
(at a loss for words)
How are you here?
(turns to Sokka)
What is going on, where did you go?

SOKKA
We kind of went to a Fire Nation prison.

Katara grabs Sokka with her free hand and pulls him in for a three-way hug with the family.

TOPH
Seriously, you guys didn't find <u>any</u> meat?

<u>END OF SHOW</u>